

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00361 01 OF 02 222011Z

ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W

-----022633 222029Z /73

R 221014Z JUN 78

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2979

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0361

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 22 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 174TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS,
WHICH WAS HELD ON JUNE 22 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
NETHERLANDS REP (DEVOS), DE VOS AND GDR REP (OESER) DELIVERED
THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENTS. THE GDR STATEMENT IS BEING REPORTED
SEPARATELY. IN HIS PRESENTATION, DEVOS DISCUSSED THE
OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ENVISAGED BY WESTERN PROPOSALS AS
MODIFIED BY THE WEST'S APRIL 19 INITIATIVE AND
ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS AS A WELCOME
MOVE, BUT ONE WHICH STILL LEFT MANY QUESTIONS UN-
ANSWERED. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE NETHERLANDS
STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM,
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00361 01 OF 02 222011Z

WERE:

1. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS OF APRIL 19 GO FAR TO MEET
EXPRESSED EASTERN CONCERNS ON PHASE I COMMITMENTS BY
NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THEIR
PHASE II REDUCTIONS AND ON THE NATURE OF THE US AND SOVIET
FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS AND THUS TO PROVIDE THE BASIS

FOR AN AGREEMENT.

2. THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE MEETS IMPORTANT EASTERN CONCERNS BY:

(A) PROVIDING FOR AN ABSOLUTELY EXPLICIT AND BINDING PHASE I GENERAL COMMITMENT ON AMOUNT AND TIMING OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS TO BE MADE BY WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES; (B) RELAXING THE ORIGINAL WESTERN REQUIREMENT FOR THE PHASE I WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY IN ITS ENTIRETY SO THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOW BE REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW FROM ANYWHERE IN THE REDUCTION AREA 68,000 SOLDIERS, FIVE DIVISIONS AND 1,700 MAIN BATTLE TANKS, INCLUDING ALL THE MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN THE FIVE DIVISIONS; AND (C) ADDING TO PHASE I US OBLIGATIONS IN THAT APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF THE REDUCTION OF THE 29,000 US GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL PROPOSED BY THE WEST WOULD RESULT IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITS OR SUB-UNITS.

3. THE LATEST WESTERN MOVE AGAINST CHANGES THE OUTCOME ENVISAGED IN THE ORIGINAL WESTERN PROPOSALS OF 1973.

4. THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION, PARAMOUNT AMONG WHICH ARE PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00361 01 OF 02 222011Z

DERIVE FROM THE BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME.

5. THE PARITY WHICH WESTERN PROPOSALS ARE AIMING AT IS NO THEORETICAL OR ABSTRACT FORMULA, BUT GENUINE EQUALITY BASED ON FACT.

6. CONTRARY TO EASTERN ASSERTIONS, THE VERY FACT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS TESTIFIES TO THE RECOGNITION BY ALL PARTIES OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING, UNSTABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

7. THE MAIN SOURCE OF INSTABILITY IS FOUND IN THE VERY LARGE EASTERN NUMERICAL SUPERIORITIES IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS.

8. THE WEST, THEREFORE, HAS PROPOSED REDUCTIONS TO A COMMON CEILING ON THE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER OF THE TWO SIDES IN THE AREA AND A SUBSTANTIAL DIMUNITION OF THE DISPARITY IN MAIN BATTLE TANKS.

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00361 02 OF 02 222017Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
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SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W
-----022658 222029Z /73

R 221914Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2980
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0361

9. THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVITY STEMS FROM THE NEED: (A) TO ENSURE THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE ADEQUATE FREEDOM TO MAINTAIN THEIR OVERALL FORCES AT THE AGREED POST-REDUCTION LEVEL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; (B) TO PREVENT INTERFERENCE WITH THE WESTERN INTEGRATED DEFENSE SYSTEM; AND (C) TO AVOID PREJUDICE TO THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

10. WITHIN COMMON COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS, A SPECIFIC LIMITATION ON SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA IS REQUIRED GIVEN THE MASSIVE MILITARY POWER OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE REALITIES OF GEOGRAPHY.

11. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WELCOME THE FACT THAT, WITH ITS RESPONSE OF JUNE 8 TO THE APRIL 19 WESTERN PROPOSALS, THE EAST APPEARS TO RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY.

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00361 02 OF 02 222017Z

12. IT IS NOT ENOUGH, HOWEVER, MERELY TO ACCEPT

CERTAIN PRINCIPLES; BUT RATHER THEY MUST BE APPLIED
REALISTICALLY TO THE EXISTING SECURITY SITUATION
IF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT IS TO BE
REACHED.

13. ALOHOUGH WESTERN PARTICIPANTS CONSIDER THE
NEW EASTERN PROPOSALS CONTAIN SIGNIFICANT MOVES
ON CERTAIN ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE WEST, THESE
PROPOSALS STILL LEAVE MANY QUESTIONS UNRESOLVED.

14. CLEARLY, MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE
POSITIONS OF EAST AND WEST, NOTABLY ON THE CENTRAL
QUESTIONS OF DATA AND COLLECTIVITY.

15. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS CANNOT IGNORE THE LARGE
DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES
ON EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA.

16. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL TO CONTINUE
VIGOROUSLY EFFORTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON DATA
UPON WHICH PROGRESS TOWARDS A FIRST REDUCTION AGREEMENT
CRUCIALLY DEPENDS. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBFRV00361
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780261-0134
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780631/aaaabakm.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5795bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2248901
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 22 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT AT THE 174TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS HELD ON JUNE 22 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
TAGS: PARM, UR, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5795bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014